A split sample was taken on February 28, 2006 of MW-37 by Entergy, NYS/DEC, and the NRC. Monitoring well MW-37 is located on the west side of the discharge canal (inside the Unit-2 turbine building); and samples from four different compartments as deep as -42 feet below Main Sea Level (MSL). NRC received preliminary analytical results for this well on March 21, 2006 from its contractor Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Education (ORISE), which identified strontium-90 (Sr-90) at concentrations as high as 26 pCi/l. (For perspective, the EPA drinking water limit for Sr-90 is 8 pCi/l, i.e., continuous ingestion of water at this concentration for a year is expected to result in an annual effective total body dose of 4 millirem). There are no drinking water pathways that rely on ground water or the Hudson River in the vicinity surrounding the Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC).

Subsequently, Entergy received similar preliminary results on the same day which identified not only Sr-90, but also nickle-63 (Ni-63). New York State was unable to analyze the February 28 sample due to insufficient sample volume and resampled MW-37 on March 10, a sample that was also split with NRC and Entergy. NRC's preliminary result from this March 10 sample indicated about the same concentration of Sr-90 as reported from the February 28 sample. Accordingly, Entergy's and NRC's preliminary analytical results tend to confirm the presence of Sr-90 at this monitoring well location.

Though the source of the Sr-90 is uncertain, the currently understood site hydrology indicates that ground water on the Indian Point facility likely migrates to the Hudson River. Such a condition constitutes an abnormal release that is required to be assessed and documented by the licensee. Entergy's preliminary bounding calculation, addressing this abnormal release, considered the presence of Sr-90 and Ni-63, and determined that such release would result in a dose to the public of about 0.1% of the regulatory limit, an indication that public health and safety is not affected. Local, State, and Federal stakeholders were informed of this new information by Entergy and NRC in a teleconference on March 21. Subsequently, Entergy issued a press release that explained the condition. Entergy has initiated actions to understand the source and cause of this condition in order to effect appropriate mitigation and remediation. On March 27, Entergy informed the NRC that the presence of Ni-63 was considered questionable based on recent re-evaluation of the MW-37 sample by its contractor.